Belgian Cupcakes Magazine

HOLIDAY EDITION

Nr 3. October/November/December 2011

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On the cover: Saltje and Hilde

Artwork: Angelic Pretty, Efteling, free clip-art, halloweenclipart.com, Hilde Heyvaert, Meg van makelovely.tumblr.com, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen, Annso Vermeylen

Photography: Vief Cornelissen, Caroline Heylighen, Hilde Heyvaert, Himo (http://millupigen.deviantart.com), Noura Khenfi, Saliha Khenfi, Julien Lesur, Veronique Robrechts, Seji Tuchimi, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Margot Van Malderen, Margot's mum, Zsolt Varszegi

Redaction: Caroline Heylighen, Hilde Heyvaert, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen

Introduction

First of all I would like to profusely apologise to the people who's art and photos I've used without the proper permissions. Sometimes I find something online that would be perfect with an article, but there's just NO reference to the original artist or photographer. If you see your art being featured in here without credit, please send me an email and I'll put up a credit note in the next issue rectifying the use without credit.
Again: mea culpa, but if there had been a credit where I found it I would have asked you if I could use it straight away (and credited you, as you no doubt gather from the lengthy art and photo credits on the index page).

This is our very first holiday edition and it's going to be our first and only ever issue covering International Talk Like a(n Air) Pirate Day (thanks to the themed meet at Saltje's), Halloween and Christmas. Because we want to keep the magazine nicely bimonthly in 2012 this one is exceptionally covering three months instead of two, which means it encompasses both the major holidays Halloween and Christmas.

Because both Halloween and Christmas fall after the deadline for this edition, we will run special Cupcake Snap holiday sections in # 4, which will be our first issue of 2012. I therefore encourage everyone to send in their Halloween and Christmas outfits for those sections!
We do, however, offer in this edition Halloween and Christmas themed art and printables made by two talented members of this forum: Annso and Lora.

As always submissions in the form of art, photos and articles are most welcome, please refer to the submission rules at the end of the magazine for how to go about that. In the mean time I hope you enjoy this edition of Belgian Cupcakes Magazine and you have epic holiday celebrations, whichever holidays you celebrate!

Hilde Heyvaert
Chief editor

Photo competition: THE FOREST

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our very first photo competition!
CONGRATULATIONS to our winner: Margot!

Next issues competition theme: holidays
The rules are simple: everyone can send in ONE photo that depicts the theme. You can choose which holiday you wish to photograph, be creative!
Photos need to be confirm to the submission rules (see p. of this edition).

"... in truth
the forest hears each sound.
each blade of grass
as it lies down.
the world requires no audience
no witnesses
no witnesses."
-Conor Oberst

Gothic Lolita Print Name Generator

1. Birth Month

January- Romantic
February- Gothic
March- Elegant
April- Victorian
May- Holy
June- Divine
July- Lace
August- Antique
September- Royal
October- Dark
November- Frilled
December- Secret

2. First Letter of Your Name

A- Cross
B- Rose
C- Blood
D- Vampire
E- Gate
F- Cathedral
G- Chandelier
H- Cage
I- Arch
J- Jewelry
K- Skull
L- Moon
M- Queen
N- Saint
O- Hymn
P- Cat
Q- Key
R- Angel
S- Relic
T- Demon
U- Poison
V- Treasure
W- Shadow
X- Tower
Y- Spire
Z- Coffin

3. Favorite Color

Red- Waltz
Pink- Nightmare
Orange- Rhapsody
Yellow- Journey
Green- Dream
Blue- Night
Purple- Masquerade
White- Desire
Black- Forest

makelovely.tumblr.com

Style spotlight: Guro Lolita

Brands: there are no actual Guro Lolita brands, you can use anything as the basis for Guro really, as long as you can see the blood on it its fine. Unless you are going with the bandaged variety, then you can use literally any Lolita coordinate as a basis.
Of course only a very small minority will use actual brand to splatter with fake blood. Mostly clothes used come from (cheap) alternatives to brand or are made specifically to be turned into Guro garments.

Commonly used colours: white, cream.

Prints: Blood splatter, gore and to a lesser extend: dirt.

Essential pieces: Everything essential for any other Lolita style is used with Guro Lolita.

Guro Lolita is the horror style of Lolita fashion. Its name is derived from the word "gore". Guro Lolita's are the broken dolls, those that were hurt. The style is characterised by dresses covered in blood, tears in the fabric (which is optional), bandages, eye patches and medical apparatus such as crutches, corsets, braces etc. Broken dolls and plush animals make for excellent companions.

There are several things to do with Guro Lolita. There's the broken doll who resembles an innocent victim of a horrendous and vicious crime. The zombie, out for human flesh and more importantly: brains.
And there's the killer, a twisted Lolita armed with her weapons of choice. The only thing they really have in common is the way they look: hurt and very often very bloodied too (although blood is optional, it's perfectly fine to go for a bandaged look instead).
Any story to your coordinate goes, as long as it's something damaged in one way or another.

It may look very costume like in its appearance, but it is in fact a genuine style within the Lolita fashion and can be done with slight details such as a Lolita wearing an eye patch and a few bandages left and right or all out covered in blood and gore. All fake of course.

Article by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Vief Cornelissen and Himo (http://millupigen.deviantart.com)

WERELD VOL WONDEREN

On the 30th of July, the Belgian Cupcakesheld a casual-lolita mini meet at the Efteling.

Margot's mother was so kind to drive us to the Efteling, so Annso and myself met up at Margot's place in the early morning. We then picked up Vief from the train station in Tilburg and were ready to go to the park!

We started out by doing some of the more "thrillseeking" attractions: the Python, the Vliegende Hollander and Joris & de Draak (which we all agreed is the best attraction in the park).

At noon we ate a delicious pasta lunch that Margot and her mother had brought from home.

After that it was time for some good old "Efteling classics" with the swinging boat, the rotating house and Droomvlucht. We ate some delicious poffertjes as a snack and then went to explore the Carousel Palace, a beautiful building where we were able to take some outfit shots. It also housed a gorgeous carousel, which we had to try out. We did some more attractions after that, like Panda Droom and the bobsleighs.

The park had a nocturne that day so it was open until midnight. We ate dinner and then returned for another ride on Joris & de Draak. Since most young children had gone home by this time, the speed of the attraction was turned up which made it even more awesome!

Our last stop of the day was to buy an icecream called Swirls, which were super-delicious. We left the park around 11PM and arrived at Margot's place at 1AM. We were all very tired but we had had a great day at the Efteling.

Article by Caroline Heylighen.
Photography: Margot's mum, Caroline Heylighen and Margot Van Malderen

Meet Report: goodbye Vief

On Tuesday the 16th of August the Belgian Cupcakes gathered in Mechelen's main trainstation for a goodbye meet for Vief, who is leaving for Leeds (the UK) soon. We'll miss you Vief!!!!
Food was bought, presents for Vief handed over and then we went on our merry way to The Box, where the purika machine is.

Of course we can under no way resist all sorts of photobooth madness as it is on a regular meet, so you can imagine that we really did spend HOURS hanging out in The Box and taking photos in the purikura. A big thank you to the shop's proprietor Hanne, for letting us spend so much time in her shop!

These are but two of the MANY puri photos made that day :)

Hilde went to find Bert around 4.30 whilst the others remained in the box for more purikura photos and just hanging out. Bert generously agreed to come along (for once not dressed up as he only came to say hi and pick up Hilde) to the local park (Kruidtuin) to take the group shots.

Article by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by those in the purikura, Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Left to right standing: Kate, Fanny, Vief, Caroline, Margot and Ylva.
Left to right sitting: Ine, Claire, Annso & Hilde.

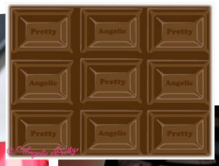
After a couple of more photos Annso had to leave to meet Arne at the trainstation and after some more outfit and fun shots, Hilde and Bert had to leave as well.
And that was another fun meet drawing to a close, sadly it was Vief's last Belgian meet for a while :(

We wish you all the very best in the UK Vief!

KITCH & AKINA'S BIRTHDAY MEET

Saturday, September 10, Liege, Belgium

The birthday girls



aRRR! Talk like a Pirate me hearties!

On Sunday the 18th of September, the day before International talk like a(n Air) Pirate Day, the Cupcakes gathered at Saltje's house for a pirate themed tea party.

Our hostess, the lovely Saltje, with the Hello Kitty chocolate she was given as a hostess gift.

Hilde, Babs and Malou had dressed up with pirates in mind and Hilde had dragged along three flintlock pistols, toys of course, and a pirate bubble blower. The last to the enormous pleasure of Fluffie the cat. Saltje and her mother in law had prepared lots of yummy snacks ranging from little tarts to cupcakes and cake donuts.
When it became time for dinner Zsolt (Saltje's husband) and Bert (Hilde's husband) went out to get tasty kebabs.

Yo ho, yo ho! a pirate's life for me!

Article by Hilde Heyvaert
Photos by Hilde Heyvaert and Noura Khenfi (group shot)

In the mean time fun was had, the conclusion made that we didn't have nearly enough pirate weapons and more shall have to be bought before next year, the LARP cutlass shan't be forgotten again in the future, bubble blowers are always fun and Noura is awesome for being present and setting up a professional photo studio to take pictures of everyone there.

Left to right standing:
Nele, Saltje, Valerie and Claire
Left to right sitting:
Hilde, Caroline, Malou and Babs

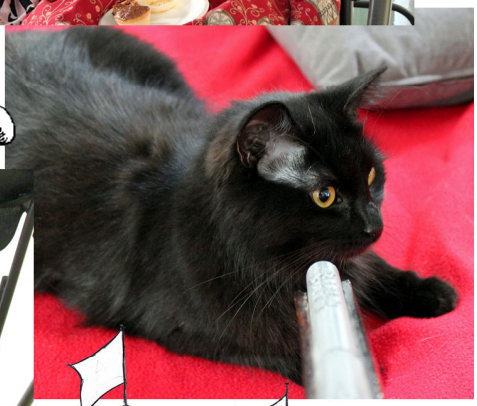
It was a nice quiet meet where people could just enjoy themselves talking, hanging out and taking photos.

Tell me where you hid the gold cat!

Because not all of the awesome photos managed to fit into the meet report here's

Pirate Snap!

Shiver me timbers!



Arrr Mateys!

The Devil wears Frills too

Today, dear reader I am going to discuss a veritable blight on the community: the hater comms.
We all know them: things like the dreaded 4chan and Lolita Secrets. Where trolls worldwide get the opportunity to safely diss and demean people from the safety of their own home and in total anonymity. Very courageous indeed, this very strongly displayed net bravado.
These people have successfully driven several lovely Lolitas (be it in personality, looks or both) off the internet. Or at least off the public internet. And sometimes even out of the scene full stop.

Sometimes these haters even go as far as being nasty to people in real life, attempting to make sure their victims will run away crying from Lolita as soon as humanly possible. When someone does stand up and openly discusses these situations, haters globally will come out of every crack and hole in the proverbial woodwork to launch abuse at the address of the offender who had the sheer guts to stand up for themselves and speak out against this kind of horrible treatment.

I thought long and hard about writing this piece or not. And frankly I think its necessary someone stands up and says something about this. It's only by remaining silent and not speaking up that we allow this kind of bullying to continue. If we want it to stop, especially the bullying in person, we have to point out that
A. we don't care about the opinion of the bully and feel their behaviour is unacceptable.
B. don't give a rat's ass about getting featured on the hater comms.
Sure, there is no way we're going to get rid of the last, and frankly trying to get rid of them isn't even my aim. My aim is to get people to understand it doesn't matter if you get featured on there. It doesn't mean you're ugly, horrid or failing at Lolita, it just means they for whatever reason think you're victim of the day. It's not because of you that you get featured, it's because of THEM.

Don't be afraid of the hater communities. They are run by people you are likely never going to meet, and even if you unknowingly have met them, they aren't your friends. Your friends will back you up and support you. They're the people who will offer comfort and support in bad days and constructive criticism when you need and/or want it. They're not the folks that will start bashing you online just because they have the opportunity or treat you like shit to your face.

There is absolutely NO need to let these people dictate your actions. Why should you fear them? They are people with no impact on your life, unless you allow them to impact it by actually caring about their opinion. If you did know them the chances are very likely you wouldn't even want to be friends with them! So what if you get featured? What does their opinion matter to you? If these people _really_ cared about Lolita they would attempt to help you by offering constructive critique and aid you in being the best Lolita you could be.

I've been featured on those comms a dozen times and no doubt will get featured loads more. I could run away from Lolita and give up on something I enjoy or I can just ignore the matter and thus give those that post there no power of me. Quite obviously I choose the last, I just can not to bring myself to care about what someone that I don't even know and don't want to know thinks about me. And neither, dear reader, should you.

If we have to live in fear about the opinion of people we don't even know, then seriously we're doing it wrong. As long as you enjoy hanging out with your friends in the local scene and wearing Lolita, then why should you even let people you don't know get to you, just because they felt the need to ridicule you online.
That's just my opinion of course.

The Devil's Advocate on duty
Hilde Heyvaert
as always, mature discussion on this subject is welcomed, flames and abuse will be ignored.

Cupcake focus: Kate

Name: Kate Cannon
Forum name: Claris
Age: 22
Styles: Sweet and Classic
Favourite brands:
Angelic Pretty,
Alice and the Pirates,
Innocent World and
Baby, the Stars Shine Bright
Lolita since: 2007

For our third focus we're letting Kate, the 2nd admin of the forum answer some questions so everyone gets know her a bit better.

What exactly attracts you in the styles you wear?

Right now I predominantly wear sweet lolita. In all probability, this has to do with my love for all things cute! Whenever I see a cute bag, piece of jewellery, book, ... anything really, I find myself compelled to buy it right away. This also translates to lolita. While I do really love the more mature classic lolita look, when I see a classic piece I tend to take my time to think things through thoroughly... Only to be tempted by a sweet print before making my final decision!
I guess I really like how easy it is to experiment in sweet lolita, because it is quite crazy to begin with.

What are your absolute dream prints you hope to own some day by your favourite brands?

I am actually lucky enough to own most of my absolute dream prints! There is only one left to get before I have all my absolute favourites! Cherry Berry Bunny was my very first dream print, and I managed to get it as a birthday gift to myself. Dreaming Macaron and Milky Planet are two more dream prints that I already acquired last year. That only leaves Melty Chocolate as an absolute must have, but I'm afraid I'll be dreaming of that one for a long time! I do of course have prints
I would like to own by brands OTHER than AP as well, but none stick out in the same extent as these prints did.

According to you, what is the absolute MUST include element in any Lolita coordination?

Oh dear, that's a very difficult question. I can't say there is one absolute element that is always necessary. I used to think certain things were absolutely necessary, but I've seen amazing coordinations being done without these so-called must include elements. So instead of actually naming a piece of clothing, I'll say the the must include element in a coordination is... Experimentation!! Don't be afraid to try new things. You can make good coordinations by following the given rules to a T, but I think you can only make great ones by trying new things! And sure, it can fail, but you can learn from those experiments gone wrong.

If you could change one thing about Lolita, what would it be?

Without a doubt, the negativity! The gossiping, loli_secrets, hate on other styles... There are so many examples! I've all too often seen brilliant, sweet lolitas be torn down... Because of jealousy perhaps? I've seen people use other lolis as a way to become more popular, spreading lies and gossip about others, and I can't stand it. In my opinion, it's sad that loli_secrets gets so much more posts than loli_valentines.

How do you see the future of the Belgian Cupcakes now Vief is moving the UK?

While I think it is sad that she is leaving, I don't see it drastically affecting the community. I think the Belgian lolita community has grown a lot, and we keep finding new enthusiastic members. I don't think our community will die when she leaves, I only think we will keep growing. She has been important in starting it up, but those remaining will no doubt keep working hard to keep the Belgian Cupcakes growing and becoming a larger and better community!

Basic recipe for muffins and cupcakes

by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen

What delicious treats could be better for the Belgian Cupcakes than muffins and cupcakes? Follow this recipe and make your own!
They're perfect for picnic's, tea parties, sleepovers, ...

For 12 muffins or 24 cupcakes:

Ingredients:
-175 g butter
-100 g self-rising flour
-225 g sugar
-3 tbsp milk
-3 eggs

1. Preheat the oven at 180°C.
2. Melt the butter
(au bain marie or in the microwave).
3. Mix the flour and the sugar in a bowl. Add the eggs and the milk to the molten butter and stir.
4. Mix the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients and stir until you get a consistent batter. Your batter is ready!
5. Your oven should be preheated by now. Put your cups in your baking mould and fill them two-thirds full with batter.
6. Bake your muffins or cupcakes for 20-25 minutes on 180°C. Check if they're done baking by poking them with a tooth pick. When you take the tooth pick out, there should be no batter left on it.
7. Let them cool down.
8. Optional: decorate them with sugar paste, glazing, candy, …

This is a very basic recipe. You can diversify by adding more ingredients or replacing ingredients with other ones:

- Try out different kinds of sugars in your batter for different tastes and consistencies.

- Add chocolate, vanilla extract, liquor, nuts, jam, fresh fruit, dried fruit, cinnamon, chili powder (goes great with chocolate), juice, coffee, muesli, caramel, syrup, honey, ... Get creative!

- Go for a marbled effect by making a bowl of vanilla batter and a bowl of chocolate batter and by mixing these together when putting the batter in the cups.
Also, put a piece of chocolate in your cup and cover it up with batter for a special "melty chocolate" surprise.

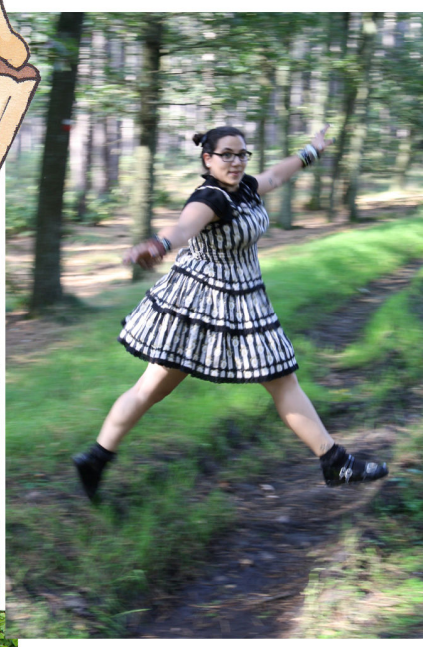
- You can make easy glazing by mixing powdered sugar with a spoon full of water. Mix your glazing with juice or liquor for a special effect. This sticky glazing is perfect for "gluing" candy to your muffins or cupcakes.

- You can also make savory muffins by leaving out the sugar and adding ingredients like spices, meat, fish, cheese, vegetables,…

- If you are lactose-intolerant, you can also follow this recipe: use 225 g self-rising flour, 250 g sugar, 75 ml water, 100 ml sunflower oil and 3 eggs as ingredients and take the same steps as above.

By LORA-ELLY VANNIEUWENHUYSEN

Cupcake Snap!



← Angelic Pretty tea party

↓ making of the # 3 cover

Stoffenfestijn Antwerpen

Photography by those in the purikura, Hilde Heyvaert, Saliha Khenfi, Julien Lesur, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Annso Vermeylen & Zsolt Varszegi

Your photo in the next snap? Read the submission rules and participate!

A very happy birthday to the Cupcakes celebrating theirs...

IN OCTOBER:
14: CAROLINE

In November:
4: NIELS
9: VALERIE
20: LIESA
24: FANNY
29: VIEF AND SALTJE

© Annso Vermeylen

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.
When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline.
Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get all the pieces, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute.

2. Deadlines
Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.
The deadline for issue 3 is **December 20**.
Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the 21st of December will not appear in the magazine.

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.
Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting
All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on **hildekitten@gmail.com**
That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc etc etc.
If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!
Do _not_ send me forum PMs, I don't do pm and your message won't be answered, but I do answer my email so you can reach me on there without problems.
When you submit artwork or photos, they must be at least 2000 pixels and jpg files.
(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.
Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!
ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).
That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proofreaders and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

moustache + november =

Movember!

Next issue

Next issue will be our fourth and the first one of 2012, covering the months January and February. **The deadline for # 4 is December 20th.**

Meet report: October: early Halloween party at Hilde and Bert's house
Meet report: November, the non-Lolita meet
Meet report: December: 3rd anniversary of the Belgian Cupcakes at the Brussels Christmas market

Event report: Facts
Event report: Japan Expo Belgium
Event report: Angelic Pretty Christmas tea party

Valentine's Day printable postcard

Cupcake Focus: Hilde
Style Spotlight: Steampunk Lolita
The devil wears frills too…
Vief's tales

Boyfriends, what do they think about it?

Recipe for mochi by Valerie
Artwork
Photo competition: holidays

Cupcake Halloween Snap
Cupcake Christmas Snap
Cupcake Snap

by Hilde Heyvaert